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PMA FARM NEWS

June 30, 1950

ASK YOUR COMMUNITY COMMITTEEMAN: Do you know your community (township) committeemen, and are you using them? asks _____, chairman of the _____ county PMA committee.

"These committeemen were elected by you and the other farmers in your community, and they are there to help you with conservation problems, with price support problems, and with acreage allotments and marketing quotas," _____ said.

"And," he added, "when they don't have the answers, they may be able to help find them."

While these committeemen do not receive a regular salary and are paid only for the time actually engaged in PMA administrative work, they are on call at any time to help their neighbors with any PMA programs.

_____ pointed out that, in administering PMA programs for the 1948-49 fiscal year, community committeemen worked an average of $6\frac{1}{2}$ days, for which they received a national average of \$6.30 per day.

PMA community committeemen of _____ county are the following:
(List committeemen by communities they represent.)

EROSION COSTS: When an inch of topsoil is washed or blown away, how much money has the farmer lost? How much has the country lost?

_____, chairman of the _____ county PMA committee, says that the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the U. S. Department of Agriculture has made several studies which indicate in reduced yields the dollars-and-cents cost of this loss.

For a certain group of soils, indications were that the loss of an inch of topsoil meant per-acre reductions of from 2 to 6 bushels of corn per acre; 1.5 to 5.5 bushels of oats; up to 3 bushels of wheat; and 5 to 10 bushels of potatoes.

_____ points out that this loss - or reduction in crop yields - comes out of net income. Thus, if the yield of corn on a farm now averages 40 bushels per acre, and without erosion control falls to 35 bushels per acre, the value of the erosion control is the value of 5 bushels of corn - annual loss - times the years to come that this loss will continue. If it costs \$30 per acre to raise the 40-bushel crop on this farm and the corn is worth \$1 per bushel, the net income on this land would be \$10. Five bushels less would cut the net income in half.

On the other hand, if erosion control practices were carried out that were 80 percent effective in preventing loss of topsoil, the yield would fall about 1 bushel instead of 5. The net income would then be \$9 instead of \$5. Multiplied by the number of acres subject to erosion, the total becomes significant when compared with what is being spent for conservation now. The loss of only 5 per acre - on the 180 million acres of cropland in this country which is now subject to

erosion - would mean an annual loss of \$900 million, as compared with a loss of \$180 million - a difference of \$720 million.

Then it must be remembered that loss of soil will continue year after year, indefinitely. Topsoil washed or blown away, in most instances, becomes a permanent loss.

SPRING PIGS AT RECORD NUMBER: The 1950 pig crop is now expected to total 99 million head, according to latest reports by the Department of Agriculture. This would be 4 percent above 1949 and 10 percent above the 1939-48 average. Estimates for both the total and the 1950 spring crop are the largest in any peacetime year, and the third largest of record - exceeded only in 1942 and 1943. Fall crop estimates are based on breeding intentions, which indicate a total of 6,017,000 sows to farrow, 5 percent more than last fall.

Pigs saved in the spring season of 1950 are expected to be 60,079,000 head, 3 percent larger than the spring crop last year and 9 percent larger than the 10-year average. Sows farrowing are estimated at 9,518,000 head. The number of pigs saved per litter, at 6.31 pigs, is 2 percent less than the 6.45 pigs of last year. The record is 6.46 pigs, reached in the spring of 1946. Smaller numbers this year are generally attributed to cold or stormy spring weather.

Always adapt our suggested news releases to fit the situation in your county, eliminate those not particularly of interest to farmers in your area, and add local items of interest.

